



SAN MANUEL VICE CHAIRWOMAN LYNN VALBUENA HONOREE OF WOMEN OF DISTINCTION LUNCHEON

Valbuena Selected by California Assemblyman Bill Emerson in Recognition of Contributions to Greater San Bernardino Community

San Manuel Reservation (Highland Calif.) March 18, 2010 – Assemblyman Bill Emerson (R) 63rd District, will recognize San Manuel Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena during the 6th Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon to be held on Friday, March 26, 2010 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Ontario. The Women of Distinction Luncheon will celebrate and recognize 63 women who have made outstanding contributions to the betterment of San Bernardino communities.

“I am honored to be in the company of women who are making such a meaningful impact in San Bernardino County,” said San Manuel Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena. “My idols growing up were my grandmother, Martha Manuel Chacon, and mother Pauline Murillo. My grandmother worked closely with the community to bring sorely needed infrastructure to our reservation. Today my mother continues to reach out and be involved in the local community educating others about our history and culture.”

Valbuena has a history of service on many local and national boards for non-profits and advocates for strong relationships between tribes and all levels of government.

In the community of San Bernardino she served 12 years as Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors for the San Bernardino Valley Lighthouse for the Blind and sat on the boards of Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, the Native American Advisory Committee - UC Riverside, and YMCA of San Bernardino. In addition, she is actively involved in the many philanthropic efforts of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians which has dedicated resources and support to scores of San Bernardino County non-profits and community based groups.

Valbuena who is slated to begin in her second consecutive as vice chairwoman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in Southern California. She has held numerous elected positions within the tribal government including a term as Chairwoman and member of the Business Committee.

In addition to her tribal government duties, Lynn is serving her 15th year as chairwoman of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN), a consortium of 11 federally recognized Indian tribes within the Central Judicial U.S. District in California. Through her work with TASIN she has actively campaigned for southern California tribes and California cities to work together through active dialogue and involvement in associations like the California League of Cities. In recent years, TASIN and the League of Cities established a Tribal Collaboration Task Force and Valbuena works to organize quarterly informational meetings that have been helpful to both organizations on issues on common issues of governance and economic development.

Lynn's interests and commitments are broad and varied. She also serves with other Native organizations, including secretary of the National Indian Gaming Association, delegate to the National Congress of American Indians and the California Nations Indian Gaming Association. Valbuena also serves on the Board of Trustees for the National Museum of the American Indian and the Autry National Center of the American West. Further, she is on the advisory council for the American Indian Chamber of Commerce to forward its mission of developing Native American businesses and entrepreneurs.

Biography and Photo Upon Request.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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